

SOONER MAGAZINE

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ROSCOE CATE, '26, Editor-Manager

EDITH WALKER, *Managing Editor* ELAINE LARECY, *Assistant Editor* TED BEAIRD, *Riding the Range* HAROLD KEITH, *Sooner Sports*

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Achievements

Probably it is inevitable that some of the more spectacular developments on the University campus, based on personalities, receive more attention from newspapers and the public than do the really important and significant developments.

The occasional sensational story takes its proper place of relative unimportance when a survey is made of substantial achievements like the following:

1. The largest single building project in the University's history is well under way on the old polo field, facing Jenkins Avenue and Lindsay Street, where the Federal Housing Agency is erecting housing and mess accommodations for 900 Army and Navy trainees. The buildings are of semi-permanent construction and after the war it should be possible to convert them into very satisfactory low cost housing for students.

2. The number of Army and Navy trainees taking classwork of University level on the O. U. campus was nearing 2,000 in September. The University is making the greatest possible use of its educational facilities to give direct aid to the armed forces.

3. At the same time the University has reorganized its schedule and its curriculum for civilian students, on an accelerated basis, to serve the educational needs of women students and for men students of pre-draft age.

4. The University Press continues to attract national attention as a publishing center that leads the Southwest—and occasionally the nation—in creative thought. The latest book published, *Plowman's Folly*, has been widely hailed by reviewers as presenting the most revolutionary idea in agriculture of the present century; an idea that is certain to have tremendous influence on agricultural methods throughout the country.

5. Although not much can be said about it, for security reasons, the University of Oklahoma Research Foundation is conducting some extremely important projects of direct value to the armed forces, particularly in the special branches of physics in which Dr. J. Rud Nielsen is an international authority.

6. More than 6,000 alumni and former students of the University are serving in the armed forces, scattered all over the world. More than 65 percent are commissioned officers and serving in positions of leadership and responsibility.

The list could be greatly expanded. A tribute should be written to the many faculty members who have been working overtime to handle greatly enlarged teaching programs for the Army and Navy trainees, and to the University staff members who have faced daily headaches in adjusting and readjusting the whole University program to meet the changing demands of wartime.

And credit should be given the many faculty members who though tempted by lucrative offers in business and industry and by the glamor and personal satisfaction of joining the armed forces, nevertheless stayed on to perform less attractive but essential assignments on the University staff. It is those University staff members who frequently subordinate their own personal pride and ambition to the general interests of the University that form the backbone of the institution, though their names rarely make the headlines.

The Cover

Pigeons in their ivory-tower home amid the gargoyles on top of the O. U. Library, photographed by Richard Meek with the kind permission of Bennie Shultz, of the O. U. Utilities Department.

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